

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois is accepting applications for two vacancies for full-time United States magistrate judge positions in the Eastern Division, with the U.S. Courthouse at Chicago, Illinois as the duty station. One of these positions is a replacement for a sitting magistrate judge who is retiring. The second position is a newly-authorized magistrate judgeship, a position that is expected to be filled after October 1, 2004, subject to the availability of funding.

The duties of the position of a United States magistrate judge are demanding and wide-ranging. They include the conduct of most preliminary proceedings in federal criminal cases, the trial and disposition of federal misdemeanor cases upon consent of the litigants, the conduct of various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on reference from the district judges of the Court, and the trial and disposition of federal civil cases upon consent of the litigants. The jurisdiction of the United States magistrate judge is specified in 28 U.S.C. § 636.

ELIGIBILITY: To be qualified for appointment as a United States magistrate judge, an applicant must

- (1) be, and have been for at least five years, a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands of the United States, and have been engaged in the active practice of law for a period of at least five years;¹
- (2) be competent to perform all of the duties of the office; be of good moral character; be emotionally stable and mature; be committed to equal justice under the law; be in good health; be patient and courteous; and be capable of deliberation and decisiveness;
- (3) be less than seventy years of age; and
- (4) not be related to a judge of the district court.

SALARY, RETIREMENT BENEFITS: The present annual salary of the position is \$145,452. A United States magistrate judge who retires after attaining the age of 65 years and serving at least 14 years, whether continuously or not, shall be entitled to receive, during the remainder of the magistrate judge's lifetime, an annuity equal to the salary being received at the time the magistrate judge leaves office.²

APPLICATION & APPOINTMENT PROCESS: Applicants are requested not to seek interviews with or submit letters of reference to individual judges or members of the Merit Selection Panel. All applications must be *typewritten and on the official application form*. The official form may be downloaded from the Court's web site. The web site address is www.ilnd.uscourts.gov. Copies of the application form may also be obtained from the Office of the Clerk of the U.S. District Court at 219 South Dearborn Street, Room 2050, Chicago, IL 60604 or by calling (312) 435-5359.

A Merit Selection Panel composed of attorneys and other members of the community will review all applications and recommend to the judges of the Court in confidence a list of the persons whom it considers best qualified. The Court will make the appointment following an F.B.I. full-field investigation and I.R.S. tax check of the person selected to fill the position. An affirmative action effort will be made to give due consideration to all qualified candidates, including women and members of minority groups.

DEADLINE: The **original and 20 copies** of the completed application and required waiver forms must be received by the Office of the Clerk of the U.S. District Court at 219 South Dearborn Street, Room 2050, Chicago, IL 60604 by the close of business on **Monday, June 14, 2004**.

CONFIDENTIALITY: All applications will be kept confidential, except as necessary for the Merit Selection Panel to perform its duties, and all applications will be examined only by members of the Merit Selection Panel and district judges of the District Court.

¹ Pursuant to Section 1.01(b) of the Regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States governing the appointment of magistrate judges, the Court may substitute certain other legal experience, e.g., experience as a judge, magistrate judge, attorney for federal or state agencies, up to two years experience as a law clerk, for the required period of "active practice of law."

² See 28 U.S.C. § 377 for further information concerning the retirement of magistrate judges.